(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| Applicant's or agent's file reference | FOR FURTHER ACTION as we | see Form PCT/ISA/220 Il as, where applicable, item 5 below. | | | | |
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| 1228-103 PCT International application No. | International filing date (day/month/year) | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) | | | | |
| mematorial application its. | | | | | | |
| T/CA2004/000031 06/01/2004 06/01/2003 | | | | | | |
| Applicant | | | | | | |
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| GILL, Atamjit | | | | | | |
| This International Search Report has be according to Article 18. A copy is being | een prepared by this International Searching Au transmitted to the International Bureau. | thority and is transmitted to the applicant | | | | |
| This International Search Report consis | | | | | | |
| X It is also accompanied | by a copy of each prior art document cited in thi | s report. | | | | |
| Basis of the report a. With regard to the language, the language in which it was filed, it | ne international search was carried out on the ba unless otherwise indicated under this item. | asis of the international application in the | | | | |
| The internation this Authority (| | slation of the international application furnished to | | | | |
| b. With regard to any nuc | cleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclose | d in the international application, see Box No. I. | | | | |
| 2. Certain claims were f | ound unsearchable (See Box II). | | | | | |
| 3. Unity of invention is l | acking (see Box III). | • | | | | |
| 4. With regard to the title, | | | | | | |
| └ | submitted by the applicant. | | | | | |
| the text has been estai | blished by this Authority to read as follows: | | | | | |
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| 5 Mills accord to the above of | BES | T AVAILABLE COPY | | | | |
| 5. With regard to the abstract, | submitted by the applicant. | | | | | |
| the text has been esta | blished, according to Rule 38,2(b), by this Autho | rity as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant | | | | |
| may, within one month | from the date of mailing of this international sea | arch report, submit comments to this Authority. | | | | |
| 6. With regards to the drawings, | | | | | | |
| a. the figure of the drawings to b | be published with the abstract is Figure No. $\underline{}$ | | | | | |
| ب | by the applicant. | | | | | |
| —————————————————————————————————————— | this Authority, because the applicant failed to st | | | | | |
| as selected by | this Authority, because this figure better charac | terizes the Invention. | | | | |
| b. none of the figures is t | o be published with the abstract. | | | | | |

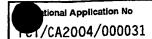


rnational application No.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The present application provides a surgical instrument for use during a surgical procedure for the treatment of female urinary incontinence. The surgical instrument comprises a handle including a gripping mechanism (30) providing a means for the surgeon to manipulate the surgical instrument. The handle further includes a coupling means (40) enabling the interconnection of a curved needle-like element to the handle. The curved needle-like element (10) has at least two eyes therethrough, wherein one eye (80) is located in the proximity of the first end (70) of the element and a second eye (90) is located in the proximity of the opposite end (60) of the needle-like element. During the surgical procedure, surgical tape (100) is passed through one of the eyes and drawn through the body in a manner such that the surgical tape forms a suburethral sling, wherein the two ends of the surgical tape emerge from the abdominal wall.



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61B17/04 A61B17/06 A61F2/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61B A61F

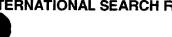
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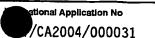
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. | χ Patent family members are listed in annex. |
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| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
| 7 June 2004 | 16/06/2004 |
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| NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | Nistor, L |





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| Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet) |
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| This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons: |
| 1. X Claims Nos.: 12 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: |
| Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery |
| Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically: |
| |
| 3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a). |
| Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet) |
| This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows: |
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| As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims. |
| 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee. |
| 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.: |
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| 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: |
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| Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. |
| No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees. |